

## **Cline Buttes Recreation Area Plan – Design Workshop**

### **What did you learn from the panel?**

Impressed with the panel, how well spoken the diverse groups are, how passionate people are about their individual needs. (I) learned about the different interests, needs and desires of each group, including landowners, different Off highway vehicle (Ohv) users, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists. Landowner and wildlife groups have a separate category of concerns which should be carefully considered and perhaps a priority. Learned there are different types of Ohv users, including Class 1 (quad), Class 2 (jeeps), and Class 3 (motorcycles). We learned that jeepers are looking for different experience (more challenging and slower speed) than typical 4X4 pickup type use. Everyone has their special needs and wishes, but all users are interested in making their recreational experience better.

I have no doubt if the people in this room were 100% of the community we would be very successful. Everyone has a passionate feeling about the area and a willingness to work towards a goal. People are expressing desires for a collective wellbeing, although each have their own wants and needs, but are willing to work together. Being on the land is where we project our ideals and hopes – it makes us feel bigger.

(There is a generally) shared concept of separating out trail systems and users, people can accept fewer miles if the trail experience is tailored for them and their use is separate from others. I learned that various groups wanted separate trails more than I thought they would. Off highway vehicles users would like different types of trails or routes for the different classes of vehicles. There is a shortage of technical jeep trails and single-track motorcycle trails. I learned there is a difference between the average four wheel drive user and those who want technical jeep trail opportunities, with jeepers looking for much more extreme terrain negotiated at slower speeds. Mountain bikers find the Cline Buttes area special as it is ride able more of the year than other locations and the terrain offers challenging downhill trails, especially on the southeast side of the buttes. We learned that while most trail users want separate trails, there is a desire to limit trail miles and fragmentation of wildlife habitat.

Problems are occurring such as people cutting fences, problems are severe for local residents. Want separate trails, peace and quiet, (and) no trespass. Motorcycles are a large problem. Loop trails can help. Area is being ruined. Information and education are critical elements that are currently missing. Landowners need help: signs, maps and designated trails.

### **What is your assessment of the current situation?**

It's an area that needs direction, without which we will continue to see increased conflict and impacts. Right now the area is a confusing, chaotic, free for all with no engineering, education or enforcement. It's an utter disaster, messy and unsafe (shooting/fire, etc.). The current situation is so unstructured and lacking clear direction and rules so there is no community identity or vision, plus a lack of respect for others. (We) experience a maximum of conflicts and impacts. No designated or signed trails, so it's not a place I would enjoy recreating. Area currently lacks trailheads or safe places to park vehicles. Area does need controls. It needs to be addressed now, if we wait, it will be that much harder to fix problems down the road.

With all groups wanting to separate their uses (no shared use trails), the amount of area or trail miles left for each use is going to be limited/not worthwhile. Should we accommodate all recreational users here? The different user groups are willing to work together, but they all want separate trails within a limited area/resource. Road and trail system use has to share with wildlife. Currently not much focus on hikers and dog walkers. There's lots of work to be done, and not much area.

We can provide our perceived needs and desires responsibly or irresponsibly when considering resources, wildlife, (and) future generations. Habitat is thrashed throughout (around) 60 percent of the area. We don't want to lose our buck herd, great horned owls, quail or bluebirds. The area is fundamentally overcrowded and will require a good program to protect habitat.

The panel will be, and has been helpful in keeping people happy and keeping a sense of us all being a team working toward the same goal instead of against each other. There has been a steady improvement over the past 12 years due to less actual use. Cline Buttes is a special area to all users, and everybody's needs can probably be met if we compromise. It's a very doable project.

### **How do you feel about it?**

We can help. This group will make a difference and improve the current situation, with passion, time, talents and treasures. Hopeful – a responsible group of people brought together with positive energy wanting to make it better. A plan can be successful even if not everyone can be made completely happy. I feel a bit hopeless some days when I'm out there, but I have hope for turning things around in time for some aspects of the habitat. I'm mad – want to do something about it. That's why I am here. I'm frustrated by the lack of environmental ethics by so many, but there is a huge potential for success. I'm hopeful, but worry there isn't enough money or commitment to do this. Lots of work to be done, better get on with it... I'm looking forward to biking trails. Hopeful the area can be improved considerable for most interests and resources. We are where we need to be, here, and moving forward.

Action needs to be taken sooner than later, before more destruction to environment. The current situation will escalate if not handled. It has already gotten out of control. Area is a travesty – thankful that this process is starting. Everybody is waiting for something to happen - - we've met the enemy. The ideas are good, but there are many big issues to deal with in a short period of time. I see some opportunities and more reason to increase use due to population, so now is the time to implement future planning. I'm concerned the upkeep of right of way roads will be more expensive as more people use and abuse it.

(I am) excited to put designated motorized and non-motorized trails on the ground. I see lots of opportunity for good. I feel that there will be a loss of effective area for enough trail miles – and an increase in safety issues on the trails. Motorcycles want to ride technical sections of trail, i.e., canyon trails, trails through trees. I'm frustrated that people are not more motivated towards multiple use (sharing trails), also motorcycles are not 4-wheelers and we're not represented as a separate group with its own trail preferences. People here created many, many singletrack and wider trails beginning in the 1960's that everyone is sharing today. Route designations and preserving wildlife and scenery needs to be done to make everyone somewhat happy. My desire is to decrease user conflicts/increase recreation opportunities, decrease impact on ground, air and water.

I am hopeful that we can work out the conflicts. But if our needs all get met, the wildlife may bear the brunt of impact. I feel that it is going to be a challenge to meet all the users' desires and provide for wildlife. I'm concerned about preserving wildlife, environment, and solitude. (I'm concerned about) numbers of people – too much impacts on wildlife and vegetation, visual.

The mess, trash, and vandalism worries me, how to police the area? Volunteers take out more than they bring in. I feel people are destructive and disrespectful of others and the environment. Education to younger users needs to be included to make them more responsible. I fear having a trail visible from my fenceline, anticipating grief for what will be different.

### **What would be the worst outcomes from this effort?**

Talk, talk, talk and no change! No resolution or consensus (is reached). We'll spend two days together without making a difference in how people treat the Cline Buttes Recreation Area. That it is so difficult to get a workable plan that essentially no plan is implemented. The process gets legal challenges and stalls for a number of years.

People don't want to help us make the plan a reality. We put in a lot of planning and coordinating together, but don't fully work together to pull it off when it comes time to do the work on the ground and maintain it. The "group" doesn't work together. The on the ground situation doesn't change. Decisions are made that are unattainable (and) unenforceable. Nothing implemented due to BLM budget cuts or personnel moving on to new planning efforts. Engineering costs too expensive, no law enforcement, and BLM doesn't do education.

Nothing happens. Area continues to get worse as far as an increase in roads, trails and dumping. Having to watch the area continue to get destroyed. (We see an) increase (in) the use. (There is a) lack of buffers for landowners. User conflicts and negative interactions between groups increase (as we are) unable to resolve planning issues. Land eventually gets sold and developed.

We reach a "consensus" resolution where all the user groups insist on maximizing their needs such that the area becomes so over-used, overpopulated, and degraded that the wildlife and scenic beauty that drew us to the area is no longer present. (There is a) lack of wildlife protection (and) habitat will degenerate due to no change in current situation.

When decisions are made, no way to stop what currently exists, (or there is) a plan that is so restrictive that users can't enjoy the area. The plan results in not enough trail miles or trail challenge and users are separated from the areas of most interest (to them). Land will be closed to public, or foot traffic only (with a) full closure to off-highway vehicles (or) off-highway vehicle usage would be located near private property. (We are) being locked out of public land again. Area is open to all types of uses instead of a specific use. I lose access to ride from my back gate.

Input from the group gets lost in the planning process, or trumped by \$ interests. The worst thing that could happen is that the whole thing/project is deserted after all this work and we start a new trail/road design effort in 2010.

### **What would be the best outcomes of this effort?**

This group wants to continue working together to create a shared vision, a shared plan, and a shared strategy to make it a reality on the ground. We see one another as each other's advocates and supporters of our free self-expression and public land use through our personal recreational choices. A long term group or team is created to deal with future endeavors. That we create a plan that all user groups support and invest their time and energy long-term to implement and maintain. All users groups remain involved and there is shared use built on respect for other groups. (There is a) large participation of restoration groups (with) public recognition, education, (and) kids all working together. A "friends of Cline Buttes" forms, is broad based, and becomes leaders of stewardship and a model of success worldwide. Pride in public lands (increases), and value of adjacent private lands increases because it's adjacent to, or near the recreation area. Increased community support, love and enjoyment of the area with success, sets stage for the improved planning of other area in the Upper Deschutes Resource Area (BLM lands in Central Oregon) and beyond.

Everyone has their point of view implemented and our community strengthens. We reach a consensus resolution where all the user groups compromise to ensure that the differing recreational uses occur but in a manner that acknowledges and provides for maintaining large blocks of unfragmented, interconnected habitat that maintains healthy populations of wildlife and the scenic beauty of the Cline Buttes area for all users including future generations to enjoy in a respectful and "leave no trace" fashion.

Every user group feels they have been heard and received what they need though this process. Every interest group gets the majority of what it desire from the Cline Buttes plan. With all of the users and property owners, we are able to work together cooperatively and implement the decisions from this planning effort.

(We create an) artistic solution to misuse issues (by) reaching and communicating with mis-user groups (in stores and gas stations) about botanical stories. The work for the Cline Buttes Area starts immediately (and) vandalism decreases. Multiple users assist in policing the area (with) perhaps some police on motorcycles for designated time to help create (a) presence of (law) enforcement.

A great, reader friendly map is created so users can stay on designated routes without getting lost. Map creates a common understanding, fewer conflicts and better resource conditions. A great education program is developed.

The plan is simple, clear, and concise. (We develop) a plan that is easy to implement with a positive outcome for other user groups and property owners. (The) plan encompasses needs of all major user groups with the least environmental impact. The plan is enforceable.

Trail system is designated and built in 2-5 years including education programs and a system of volunteer community participation. Well planned trails are done in a timely manner. Existing mountain bike trails are protected, new trails established and damage repaired to the area. A large, well laid out motorized and non-motorized trail system (is created) that protects wildlife, plants, soils, grazing, and private landowners. 100 plus miles of single track trail for motorcycles mapped and designated. 2 or 3 designated play areas are created, and other users are provided

opportunities. Proper signage and fencing. Many folks will get involved and trailheads will be totally cleaned up with beautiful signage.

We come up with a plan that allows for minimum impact and conflict and maximum access, many shared use trails. Include a fair amount of non-motorized trails, hiking and horse and mountain biking; fair amount dedicated to mountain bike downhill; fair amount of Class 1 and 3 trails; fair amount of Class 2 trails if opportunity exists; fair access for recreational users, minimal disturbance to adjacent landowners.

The best possible outcome would be unity and cooperation of all groups to develop a trail system (or systems) which are sustainable and provide a satisfying trail experience for the user. A plan based on unity and cooperation.

Cline Buttes Recreation Area (would) be a successful template for other cooperative efforts between BLM and urban/semi-urban areas. (We create) an agreement between users and land managers that would result in protection for (the) environment and wildlife, recreation, chances for all user groups and building respect for the area among all land users.

(The plan) meets the long-term needs of the area well into the future. All users co-exist peacefully and enjoy this wonderful place. Retain opportunities to see deer, elk, great horned owls, hawks and eagles. Wildlife return to (the) area. My grandchildren can ride their horse in the area and realizes the same passions that I have. Private property fences aren't cut and trail system designed to reduce conflicts with landowners.